said about shortcomings in passenger amenities, etc. There is a proposal for doubling. We are doing doubling of the lines. We are also doing the ongoing projects. We are also doing electrification of railway lines in the North-Eastern Region. In this Budget, we have given Rs. 740 crores for the North-Eastern Region.

*226. [The questioner(s) (Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa) was/were absent. For answer *vide* page 22 *infra*.]

Disinvestment of Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.

*227. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has moved a proposal for disinvesting Manganese Ore (India) Limited through sale of Government equity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for disinvestment in the above company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In accordance with the policy of the Government for sharing ownership of Central Public Sector Undertakings with the public and to meet the Securities and Exchange Board of India guidelines requirements, a proposal for disinvestment of 10% of the paid up capital of Manganese Ore (India) Limited out of Government of India's shareholding has been sent to the Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard.

श्री सभापति : जल्दी से सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सभापति जी, मैं संक्षेप में पूछ रहा हूं। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो मैंगनीज ओर है, उसके share disinvestment करने के लिए मंत्री जी इतने उतावले क्यों हैं? Stake-holders के लिए जो...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Increased demand of fertilizers in Punjab

*226. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increased demand of fertilizers in Punjab this year as compared to the previous year in the wake of a need to push up production of Rabi crops for 2009-10 due to the shortage in production of Kharif crops in 2009 and drought conditions;

(b) if so, what is the situation this year, as compared to the demand for previous two years, alongwith the nature of fertilizers sought; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to meet the increased demand and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The demand of major fertilizers namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex (NPX) fertilizers in Punjab during the current year 2009-10 as compared to that for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as under:

('Qty. in 'lakh metric tonnes')

Parti-culars	Product	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
		Kharif	Rabi	Total	Kharif	Rabi	Total	Kharif	Rabi	Total
	Urea	12.50	12.50	25.00	13.00	12.50	25.50	12.50	13.00	25.50
	DAP	2.50	5.50	8.00	2.60	5.50	8.10	3.00	5.50	8.50
	MOP	0.60	0.35	0.95	0.60	0.35	0.95	0.56	0.35	0.91
	Complexes	0.31	0.66	0.97	0.31	0.70	1.01	0.30	0.25	0.55

As can be seen, the demand of Urea and DAP has increased from 25.00 LMT to 25.50 LMT and 8.00 LMT to 8.50 LMT respectively from the year 2007-08 to the year 2009-10.

(c) The Government is meeting the increased demand through increase in indigenous production and import during the year. The demand and availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizer during the year 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April'09 to November'09) are as follows:

('Qty. in 'lakh metric tonnes')

Product	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Demand	Availability	Demand	Availability	Demand	Availability
Urea	25.00	26.97	25.50	26.28	15.30	15.48
DAP	8.00	9.14	8.10	8.82	7.50	7.76
MOP	0.95	0.58	0.95	0.98	0.81	0.80
Complex	0.97	NA*	1.01	0.59	0.55	0.50

*DOF started monitoring demand and availability of complex fertilizer w.e.f. 1.4.2008

Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers *viz*. DAP, MOP, and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-panalized

since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level and State Governments are responsible for further distribution within the State. However, as can be seen, the availability of fertilizers in Punjab during current year is comfortable.

The following steps have been taken to ensure supplies of fertilizers as per demand:

(i) The gap between requirement and indigenous availability of Urea is met through imports:

(ii) Department of Fertilizers operates Buffer Stock of Urea, DAP and MOP through State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;

(iii) The movement of fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertiliser Monitoring System (FMS).

Setting up of campuses of universities abroad

*228. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on one hand Government is in the process of enabling foreign universities to set up campuses in India, and on the other hand several educationists want Indian universities to be allowed to set up campuses abroad;

(b) if so, whether Government has framed any guidelines and regulations permitting State universities to go abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A legislative proposal for regulating entry and operations of foreign educational institutions is being finalized. Universities and other public institutions may set up campuses abroad, if so permitted by the relevant legislative Act, or Memorandum of Association under which a university or institution is established. So far as privately funded universities set up under the Acts of State legislatures are concerned, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed regulations, namely, the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, which, *inter alia*, provide that a private university can open off-shore campus(es) in foreign countries only after obtaining permissions from the Government of India and the host country. According to the UGC guidelines for considering proposals for declaring an institution as "deemed to be university" under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956,